

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00507 021739Z

70

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SCCT-01 /093 W

----- 091008

R 021610Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5226

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NY

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 0507

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR MOPS MR SS MO AG

SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH: MILITARY SITUATION ON MAURITANIAN FRONT

1. GIRM SECURITY FORCES EVACUATED JGRDER OUTPOST OF 'AIN BEN TILI ON FEBRUARY 28 ACCORDING TO SPANISH EMBOFF. POST WAS FIRST OVERWHELMED BY POLISARIO/ALGERIAN TROOPS ON JANUARY 22. MAURITANIANS REOCCUPIED FORT ON FEBRUARY 14 (NOUAKCHOTT 365). SECOND EVACUATION REPORTEDLY WAS ORDERED DUE TO THREAT OF ATTACK BY CONCENTRATED POLISARIO FORCES TO NORTH OF 'AIN BEN TILI IN VICINITY OF BIR LEHLOU. SPANISH DIPLOMAT NOTED THAT GIRM FORCES PULLED ALL THE WAY BACK TO BIR MOGHREIN. HE ALSO REPORTED THAT NORTHEASTERN PORTION OF MAURITANIA BORDERING ALGERIA AND MALI CONTAINS NO MAURITANIAN TROOPS AND MUCH OF REGION IS ASSUMED TO BE UNDER POLISARIO CONTROL. AT SAME TIME, MAJOR  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NOUAKC 00507 021739Z

NORTHERN TOWNS OF F'DERICK, ZOUIRAT, AND BIR MOGHREIN

ARE QUIET.

2. SPANISH EMBOFF SAID AREA AROUND BIR LEHLOU AND GUELTA ZEMU INSIDE SAHARA ARE LARGELY IN CONTROL OF POLISARIO. MOROCCANS REPORTEDLY ARE CONTINUING PERIODIC AIR ATTACKS AGAINST GUELTA ZEMUR, BUT HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DISLODGE POLISARIO. SPANIARD ADDED IT IS NOT CLEAR WHO IS HOLDING TIFARITI AT PRESENT TIME. HE DESCRIBED DAKHLA AS QUIET, NOTING THAT MOROCCANS ARE STILL RUNNING AIRPORT AND PORT FACILITIES. IN ADDITION, THERE IS STILL HANDFUL OF SPANISH TECHNICIANS IN CITY, ESPECIALLY IN AREA OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

3. TWO UNITED NATIONS EMPLOYEES VISITED ATAR, CHOUM, F'DERICK, AND ZOUIRAT LAST WEEK. THEY REPORTED THAT F'DERICK, ZOUIRAT, AND ATAR ARE CALM. ALTHOUGH CURFEW IS STILL IN EFFECT IN FIRST TWO TOWNS, IT IS NOT RIGOROUSLY ENFORCED. ON OTHER HAND, SECURITY FORCES, MOSTLY UNTESTED RESERVES, POSTED AT CHOUM TUNNEL AND SPACED OUT ALONG RAIL LINE FROM CHOUM TO F'DERICK ARE VERY JITTERY. U.N. OFFICIALS CLAIMED THAT SOME UNITS ALONG RAILROADS HAVE ORDERS TO SHOOT AT ANYTHING THAT MOVES DURING NIGHT.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM SECOND EVACUATION OF 'AIN BEN TILI. THERE HAS BEEN NO SUGGESTION IN MAURITANIAN PRESS THAT GIRM TROOPS HAVE PULLED BACK. DURING DISCUSSION IN NOUAKCHOTT MARCH 1 WITH DAKAR-BASED DATT, CHEF D'ETAT-MAJOR ADJOINT DID NOT MENTION THAT GIRM FORCES HAVE LEFT BORDER POST.HANDYSIDE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ullricre  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976NOUAKC00507  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760079-0954  
**From:** NOUAKCHOTT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t197603104/aaaadhry.tel  
**Line Count:** 94  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ullricre  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <10 AUG 2004 by ullricre>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SAHARA WATCH: MILITARY SITUATION ON MAURITANIAN FRONT  
**TAGS:** PBOR, MOPS, MR, SS, MO, AG, POLISARIO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006